

- b. allowing the targeting moiety to circulate through the injected human or animal for a time sufficient to bind to the target analyte of interest and form a targeting moiety:target analyte conjugate;
- c. obtaining a sample of blood [body fluid] from the human or animal;
- d. combining the sample of blood [body fluid] with a capture moiety capable of binding specifically to the targeting moiety:target analyte conjugate in order to form an assay mixture;
- e. incubating the assay mixture of step d to allow the capture moiety to bind specifically to the targeting moiety:target analyte conjugate;
- f. removing any unbound and unconjugated targeting moiety and target analyte from the assay mixture;
- g. detecting the amount of bound targeting moiety:target analyte conjugate on the capture moiety [and]
- h. determining the amount of the target analyte in the sample correlating to the amount of [bound] targeting moiety:target analyte conjugate bound to the capture moiety and detected in step (g); and
- i. wherein the target analyte is a peptide or protein hormone.

Please delete Claim 2.

Please delete Claim 3.

Please rewrite Claim 6.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of interleukin-1, interleukin-2, interleukin-3, interleukin-4,

interleukin-5, interleukin-6, interleukin-7, interleukin-8, interleukin-9, interleukin-10, interleukin-11, interleukin-12, interleukin-13, interleukin-14, interleukin-15, interleukin-16, interleukin-17, interleukin-18,, interferon-alpha, interferon-beta, interferon-gamma, lymphotoxin, tumor necrosis factor-alpha, transforming growth factor (TGF) [TGF]-beta, granulocyte macrophage-colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF) [GM-CSF], nerve growth factor (NGF) [NGF], and epidermal growth factor (EGF) [EGF].

Please rewrite Claim 7.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the blood [body fluid] is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum and plasma [saliva, blood and extracellular fluid].

Please rewrite Claim 8.

8. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the targeting moiety is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, soluble receptors, and recombinant molecules with binding sites for the target analyte[, and fragments thereof].

Please rewrite Claim 20.

20. The method of claim 8, wherein the targeting moiety is a first targeting moiety itself capable of being bound by a second targeting moiety wherein the second targeting moiety is recognized by the capture moiety.

Please rewrite Claim 26.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the second [molecule capable of binding the] targeting moiety is detectably labeled by linking it to a label which label can then be bound to a binding partner which is conjugated to an enzyme.

Please rewrite Claim 37.

37. A reagent kit useful in performing the method of claim 1, comprising: (a) a first container having first targeting moieties [paratopic molecules] that immunoreact with a target analyte, and are operatively linked to a label [an enzyme indicating means]; (b) a second container having second targeting moieties [paratopic molecules] that immunoreact with the target analyte at a site different from the first targeting moieties [paratopic molecules] but are not in the first container; and (c) one or more other containers comprising one or more of the following: a sample reservoir, a solid phase support, wash reagents, reagents capable of detecting presence of bound antibody from the second container, or reagents capable of amplifying the label [indication means].

Please rewrite Claim 38.

38. A reagent kit of claim 37, wherein the [paratopic molecules are detectably labeled through the use of a] label is selected from the group consisting of radioisotopes, affinity labels, enzymatic labels, and fluorescent labels.

Please rewrite Claim 39.

39. A reagent kit of claim 38 [37], wherein the fluorescent labels are [paratopic molecules are detectably labeled through the use of fluorescent labeling agents are] fluorochromes selected from the group consisting of fluorescein isocyanate (FIC), fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC), 5-dimethylamine-1-naphthalenesulfonyl chloride (DANSC), tetramethylrhodamine isothiocyanate (TRITC), lissamine, rhodamine 8200 and sulphonyl chloride (RB 200 SC).

Remarks

The proposed amendments are those that the Examiner has indicated would address the issues raised by the application. Furthermore, in light of the proposed